

(In million kg.)

State	Production during 1996-97
Assam	419.25
West Bengal	160.00
Other North Indian States	9.35
Tamil Nadu	118.42
Kerala	63.42
Karnataka	4.87
All India	775.31

Marginal shortfall in the production of tea vis-a-vis the target has been on account of adverse agro-climatic conditions in the tea growing areas of South and North India.

(c) and (d) Exports of tea in 1996-97 are estimated at 162.86 million kg. as against a target of 180 million kg.

Decline in export in quantity terms has been on account of lower imports of tea by countries like Russia, Poland, Ukraine and Egypt.

(e) In order to increase production of Tea, Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes to encourage activities such as replantation, extension planting, setting up of new plantations, assistance to small growers in extension activities and research and development.

Government and the Tea Board have been analysing country-wise exports of tea giving special attention to areas offering potential. Tea Board also acts to remove bottlenecks in exports to individual markets whenever these are noticed.

Other steps taken to increase exports of Indian tea include (i) participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad; (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness of speciality of Indian tea and campaign to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol which stands for pure Indian tea.

The 9th Plan proposals for tea inter-alia include programmes to increase production and to promote export with a total outlay of Rs. 1378 crores.

Dues from Central PSU to Karnataka

6645. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Central Public Sector Undertakings in Karnataka;

(b) the amount due to Karnataka Electricity Board as on date from these Public Sector Undertakings towards power supplied; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to pay the dues to Karnataka Electricity Board by these Undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) There are 16 Central PSUs which have their registered offices in the State of Karnataka. As per available information; out of these enterprises, no outstandings are pending for payment in respect of 8 Central PSUs. The amount of outstandings keeps on varying from time to time due to the varying agreements between the supplier and receiver of power, which is not monitored by the Central Government. These are settled by the respective parties.

Allotment of Coal Blocks to Power Project

6646. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Times of India dated December 17, 1997 under caption "First mega power project derailed over coal blocks";

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The earlier North Karanpura STPS later shifted to a site at Nabinagar was originally proposed to come up in the Central sector and at that time coal from captive blocks of North Karanpura Coalfield was identified as the fuel source. The Ministry of Power had asked Power Grid Corporation to call international tenders inviting private parties to set up the power plant alongwith mining of the captive coal block at North Dadhu. This block has over 900 million tonnes of geological coal reserves which is sufficient to meet the requirement of this power plant for a period of 30 years. The Ministry of Coal had been advised

by the Ministry or Power that the prospective investors were disinclined to accept this block as substantial part of the reserves would have to be mined by underground mining techniques. Ministry of Power had, therefore, sought alternate blocks which would have sufficient geological reserves and which could be mined through opencast techniques. Three coal blocks at Dumargarh, Karimati and Sheregarha with geological reserves adequate to meet the needs of this power plant had been identified. The matter is under further consideration of the Ministry of Power.

Trade with Algeria

6647. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Indo-Algerian Joint Committee meeting held recently for the promotion of bilateral trade;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the trade with Algeria ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The 6th Session of the Indo-Algerian Joint Commission was held in New Delhi during March 3-6, 1997.

(b) and (c) Both sides expressed their determination to raise the present level of bilateral trade through various trade promotional activities. Both sides identified areas of cooperation such as drugs and pharmaceuticals, small and medium scale industries, heavy industry, electronics and telecommunications, textiles, leather, railway transport, air-transport, shipping services, etc.

KVIC

6648. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the State-wise amount spent on Apiculture by Khadi and Village Industries Commission and other such agencies during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Apiculture (Beekeeping) Industry is one of the Village Industries under the purview of KVIC. A statement-I showing the State-wise amount spent on Beekeeping by KVIC during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 is attached.

in addition, the Department of Agriculture and

Cooperation is also implementing a scheme "Development of Beekeeping for improving crop productivity in India" since 1994-95. Funds released for implementing the various components of the scheme to the implementing agencies including State Governments are indicated in the statement-II attached.

Statement-I

Statewise/yearwise Disbursement of Funds by KVIC on Apiculture during 1994-95 to 1996-97

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5
01.	Andhra Pradesh	0.55	1.69	—
02.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
03.	Assam	3.19	6.32	3.60
04.	Bihar	0.33	27.63	13.79
05.	Goa	—	—	—
06.	Gujarat	—	—	—
07.	Haryana	0.50	—	8.00
08.	Himachal Pradesh	4.07	7.36	8.70
09.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	6.38	—
10.	Karnataka	2.23	3.26	—
11.	Kerala	3.18	15.45	10.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.61	0.13	—
13.	Maharashtra	9.61	5.39	3.88
14.	Manipur	—	0.25	4.10
15.	Meghalaya	1.11	—	0.47
16.	Mizoram	—	2.78	0.25
17.	Nagaland	5.63	0.02	—
18.	Orissa	0.14	5.70	0.50
19.	Punjab	1.59	4.61	19.85
20.	Rajasthan	—	—	—
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	16.10	1.67	—